

Message Text

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R 100021Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY SOFIA

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FOR AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, AMGT, TPHY, TGEN, OEXC, RO, HU, BU

SUBJECT: MULTIPAL ACCAREDIATION OF SCIENCE ATTACHE AT
BUCHAREST

1. US NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION (NSF) PROGRAMS FORM
MAJOR PART OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION
BETWEEN US AND ROMANIA, HUNGARY AND BULGARIA. MEMORANDA
OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) BETWEEN NSF AND COUNTERPART
AGENCIES WERE CONCLUDED UNDER SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
PROVISIONS OF THE CULTURAL, EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND
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TECHNOLOGY AGREEMENTS WITH ROMANIA AND BULGARIA, AND THE
EXISTING MEMORANDUM BETWEEN NSF AND KKI IN HUNGARY WILL BE
INCLUDED IN EVENTUAL PROGRAM DOCUMENT UNDER EXCHANGE
AGREEMENT IN THAT COUNTRY AS WELL.

2. TO HELP MANAGE ITS PROGRAM, NSF HAS SUPPORTED THE
POSITION OF SCIENCE ATTACHE IN EMBASSY BUCHAREST SINCE

1973. INCUMBENT IS MR. JAY BLOWERS, FSO-3.

3. THE CURRENT MOU BETWEEN NSF AND ROMANIA'S NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EXPIRES IN SEPTEMBER 1978. POOR ROMANIAN PERFORMANCE IN THE LAST TWO OR THREE YEARS, ESPECIALLY IN TERMS OF PROVIDING LONG-TERM

EXCHANGEES FOR COOPERATIVE RESEARCH PROJECTS, IS BEING TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT DURING THE PRESENT REVIEW AND RENEGOTIATION OF THE MOU. IF RENEWED, THE MOU WILL PROBABLY EMPHASIZE COOPERATION IN THE FORM OF SHORT-TERM WORKSHOPS RATHER THAN JOINT PROJECTS. SHOULD CONDITIONS PROVE FAVORABLE NEW JOINT PROJECTS COULD EVENTUALLY GROW OUT OF THE WORKSHOPS, BUT THE IMMEDIATE RESULT WILL BE A DECREASE IN THE SIZE OF THE NSF PROGRAM IN ROMANIA. THUS CONTINUED NSF SUPPORT OF THE ATTACHE POSITION IN BUCHAREST IS UNDER STUDY.

4. WHILE US-ROMANIAN ACTIVITY IS DECLINING, THE SIGNING OF NEW EXCHANGE AGREEMENTS HAS ENLIVENED SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN US AND BULGARIA AND HUNGARY, WHERE NO SCIENCE ATTACHE IS ATTACHED TO EITHER EMBASSY. POTENTIAL FUTURE LEVELS OF ACTIVITY WARRANT INCREASED MONITORING BY BOTH NSF AND DEPARTMENT.

5. NSF IS SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING SUPPORT OF SCIATT POST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN BUCHAREST FOR AT LEAST ONE MORE YEAR IF SOME FORM OF MULTIPLE ACCREDITATION TO SOFIA AND BUDAPEST CAN BE WORKED OUT. IN ADDITION, TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE FOR SCIATT TO PERFORM ENVISIONED DUTIES IN BUDAPEST AND SOFIA WOULD COME FROM NSF BUCHAREST SUPPORT ACCOUNT.

6. THEREFORE, DEPARTMENT PROPOSES, WITH NSF CONCURRENCE, THAT, TO UTILIZE FULLY THE BUCHAREST SCIENCE ATTACHE AND TO KEEP ABREAST OF PROGRAM GROWTH IN HUNGARY AND BULGARIA, MR. BLOWERS BE ACCREDITED TO BUDAPEST AND SOFIA AS WELL AS BUCHAREST.

7. BLOWERS WOULD REMAIN STATIONED IN BUCHAREST, WHERE HIS PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES WOULD BE, BUT HE WOULD TRAVEL ON A REGULAR BASIS TO THE OTHER TWO CAPITALS TO ASSIST IN ADMINISTERING AND EVALUATING PROGRAMS AND PROMOTING CO-OPERATIVE ACTIVITIES UNDER THE EXCHANGE AGREEMENTS. HE WOULD ALSO BE AVAILABLE FROM TIME TO TIME TO ASSIST WITH THE INCREASING FLOW OF OFFICIAL SCIENTIFIC VISITORS IN EACH DIRECTION.

8. TIME IN BUDAPEST AND SOFIA THE FIRST YEAR MIGHT BE TWO

TO FOUR WEEKS EACH, MADE UP OF TWO OR THREE TRIPS OF A WEEK EACH AND SEVERAL TRIPS OF A FEW DAYS. THE ARRANGEMENT WOULD BEGIN ABOUT SEPTEMBER 1, 1978.

9. AMBASSADORS' CONCURRENCE OR COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS CONCERNING THIS PROPOSAL ARE INVITED SOONEST IN ORDER TO SPEED ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS. ASSUMING POSTS CONCUR IN THIS PROPOSAL, BUDAPEST AND SOFIA WILL THEN BE INSTRUCTED TO SEEK ACCREDITATION FROM HOST GOVERNMENTS.

10. FOR SOFIA - THE 1969 AGREEMENT BETWEEN AMBASSADOR MCSWEENEY AND THE MFA PROVIDES FOR A PERSONNEL CEILING OF 26 AMERICANS AT EMBASSY SOFIA. DOES THIS CEILING INCLUDE THE AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE BASED IN ATHENS? IF SO, WOULD IT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BE POSSIBLE, IN YOUR JUDGMENT, TO REACH AGREEMENT WITH THE GOB FOR THE ACCREDITATION OF A SCIENCE ATTACHE BASED IN BUCHAREST? IF NOT, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT HIS ACCREDITATION WOULD NOT VIOLATE THE 1969 AGREEMENT. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS ON THIS MATTER AS WELL. VANCE

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